

-- ~~4~~⁵³. In an optical scanner for reading indicia having parts of different light reflectivity, the scanner having a laser light source, a reciprocally oscillatable scanning mirror for reflecting light from the light source to the indicia in a scan across the indicia thereby reflecting light of variable light intensity off the indicia, and a light sensor for detecting at least a portion of the light reflected off the indicia and generating an electrical signal indicative of the detected light intensity, an optical component comprising:

B/ a stationary mirror having a generally concave first surface portion for collecting at least a portion of the light reflected off the indicia, and for directing the collected portion of light to the light sensor, and a generally aplanar second surface portion for directing the light from the light source to the scanning mirror.

~~5~~⁵⁴. An optical scanner for scanning indicia such as bar code symbols, comprising:

a laser source comprising a laser diode for producing a light beam along a path, the light beam having a profile that converges in both x and y directions so that the beam has a waist in each of the respective x and y directions, where x and y are orthogonal directions in a plane substantially orthogonal to the path of the light beam;

a convex mirror disposed in the path of the light beam from the laser source and shaped to diverge light in the y direction; and

a scanning element positioned to receive the light beam and functioning to move the light beam in a scanning motion along the x direction across the indicia.--